761551N25A - SH-AD (11/90)

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

"A Tradition of Service"

December 4, 2012 DATE:

DISPOSITION SHEET

FILE:

IV 2290551

FROM:

GLEN DRAGOVICH

ACTING DIVISION DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

TO: ALICIA E. AULT, CAPTAIN

INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

SUBJECT: STROBLE, Steven A., #

Deputy Sheriff Generalist

Personnel Administration Bureau

Upon consideration of the facts developed in this investigation, I have determined that Subject Steven A. Stroble should be DISCHARGED, for the reasons set forth in the attached documentation. This decision may be reconsidered based upon the employee's response.

> Glen Dragovich Acting Division Director

CASE REVIEWED BY PANEL MEMBERS:

Commander's Name Date Date

Commander/Chair of Case Review

The evidence in this investigation supports the following charges:

- 1. That in violation of the Manual of Policy and Procedures Section(s) 3-01/000.10, Professional Conduct; and/or 3-01/030.05, General Behavior; and/or 3-01/030.07, Immoral Conduct; and/or 3-01/050.10. Performance to Standards; and/or 3-01/030.15, Conduct Toward Others; and/or 3-01/030.10, Obedience to Laws, Regulations, and Orders (as it pertains to 647 (i) (2) P.C., Disorderly Conduct, Unauthorized Photography,) on or about June 14, 2011, while on duty and in uniform, Subject Stroble attempted to take surreptitious photographs with his cellular phone camera of an unsuspecting at Alhambra Courthouse when he positioned woman. his camera in a manner that would capture an image of her exposed leg or unexposed leg which was covered by her dress. Subject Stroble's admitted actions damaged the reputation of, and/or eroded the public's confidence in the Department. On March 1, 2013, Subject Stroble plead Nolo Contendere to 647 (j) (2) P.C., Disorderly Conduct, Unauthorized Photography. Subject Stroble was placed on summary probation for 36 months, assigned community services, and ordered to pay fines and restitution. His admitted actions brought discredit upon himself and the Department, and/or involved moral turpitude causing disrepute to the Department. Subject Stroble also failed to perform in conformance to the work standards established for his position, and/or failed to treat in a respectful, courteous, and civil manner by positioning his camera in a manner which could capture images underneath 's dress.
- 2. That in violation of Manual of Policy and Procedures Section 3-01/040.75, Failure to Make Statements and/or Making False Statements During Departmental Investigations; and/or 3-01/040.70, False Statements, on or about June 15, 2011, Subject Stroble knowingly made false and/or misleading statements regarding his actions of attempting to take surreptitious photographs of an

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unsuspecting woman at the Alhambra Court facility, and/or the surrounding circumstances regarding the incident, as evidenced by, but not limited to:

- a. denying being in the traffic office at the Alhambra Courthouse on or about June 14, 2011, and/or words to that effect, and/or;
- b. denying entering into the traffic office a second time before approaching on June 14, 2011, and/or words to that effect, and/or;
- denying positioning his cellular telephone underneath a woman's dress, and/or;
- d. stating he retrieved a piece of paper up from the floor and asked if it belonged to her, or words to that effect, and/or;
- e. stating, "And as I walked out, I saw it (referring to the paper), ignored it, text my to tell her where I was (inaudible) down, picked it up, walked around her," and/or;
- f. stating he provided a different version of events since he worked with Sergeant Scott Craig and did not respect or trust him, and/or words to that effect, and/or;
- g. stating he only entered the traffic office once, and/or words to that effect, and/or;
- h. stating the piece of paper he either retrieved from the floor or had was a note for himself to call a job applicant based on his primary duties as a pre-employment deputy, or words to that effect.
- 3. That in violation of Manual of Policy and Procedures Section and/or 3-01/040.76, Obstructing an Investigation/Influencing a Witness; and/or 3-01/040.85, Cooperation During Criminal Investigation, on or about June 16, 2011 and/or June 22, 2011, Subject Stroble contacted Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau personnel and provided personal information not related to his investigation and attempted to

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gauge their progress in the matter as evidenced by, but not limited to the following;

- explaining he was the "president" of a little league girls softball team and/or words to that effect;
- asking if he should find new employment, and/or words to that effect, and/or;
- explaining that his actions were a "twenty minute mistake," and/or words to that effect, and/or;
- d. stating he joined a sexual addiction support group, and /or words to that effect.

SUMMARY

On Wednesday, June 14, 2011, Subject Stroble walked into the second floor clerk's office where an adult female was the only customer in the office. She was standing at the traffic window and was wearing a dress. Subject Stroble entered the clerk's office, carrying paperwork in his left hand and a black cell phone in his right hand. Subject Stroble bent over at the waist, lowered his cell phone beneath the level of the woman's dress, and appeared to take a picture of the woman with his cell phone. The incident was witnessed by an employee inside the clerk's office and was depicted on video surveillance cameras.

On June 15, 2011, investigators from the Internal Criminal Investigations
Bureau investigated the allegation by conducting interviews and reviewing
video surveillance. The woman who was standing at the traffic window was
identified as

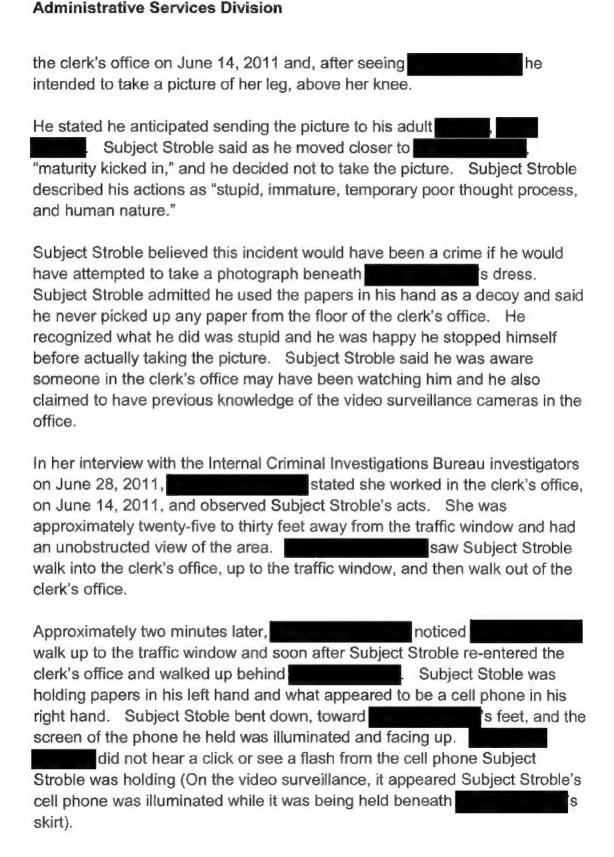
In her June 21, 2011, interview with investigators from the Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau, confirmed she was at the Alhambra Court clerk's office to pay a traffic ticket on June 14, 2011.

She recalled when she entered the elevator to go the second floor clerk's office she held the elevator door open to allow Subject Stroble to enter.

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not converse on the elevator. exited the elevator and went into the clerk's office. As she wrote a check to pay for her ticket, she noticed Subject Stroble inside the clerk's office, to her left. Subject Stroble showed her a plain piece of white paper and asked if it belonged to her. told Subject Stroble the piece of paper was not hers. She recalled seeing the word "call" written on the paper. completed her business and left the court building.
recalled she wore a summer dress, with a hemline which extended three inches past her knees, a blue jean jacket, undergarments, and a girdle. Said Subject Stroble never touched her during the incident. She was unable to positively identify Subject Stroble when presented with a photographic line-up.
On June 15, 2011, Subject Stroble participated in a Department internal interview and initially said he was unaware of such an incident and denied being in the Alhambra Courthouse clerk's office on June 14, 2011.
Subject Stroble recanted and explained he went into the clerk's office at approximately 1320 hours. Subject Stroble said he made small talk with the clerks and saw a piece of paper lying on the floor, next to a female he did not know, As he explained, Subject Stroble insisted he was not going to pick up the paper at first, but then decided to and asked if it belonged to her. told him the piece of paper was not hers and it may have belonged to another person.
Subject Stroble said during the contact with his personal cell phone was in his hand because he was text messaging his text.
Subject Stroble maintained he had done nothing wrong and only picked up a piece of paper when he was told of video surveillance footage, and a witness who saw his actions in the clerk's office.

Moments after the interview concluded, Subject Stroble expressed he would like to clarify his earlier statements. Subject Stroble admitted he went into



Although Subject Stroble feigned as if he was picking up papers off the floor, he deliberately put his cell phone under to engage in conversation.

overhead Subject Stroble state to , "Make sure you call them." Subject Stroble then exited the clerk's office.

positively identified Subject Stroble in a photographic line-up.

Pursuant to a search warrant, Subject Stroble's personal Yahoo account, Samsung-Verizon (personal) cell phone, LG (work) cell phone, CDs, flash drives, memory cards, personal computer, and work computers were searched. The records provided by Verizon Wireless indicated on June 14, 2011, Subject Stroble did not send or receive any text messages between 1218 hours and 1440 hours, contradicting his initial statement he had been text messaging his when he entered the clerk's office. No additional evidence in the case against Subject Stroble was recovered from the items seized.

On August 24, 2011, a charge of Disorderly Conduct, Unauthorized Photography Through or Under Clothing; 647 (J)(2) Penal Code, was filed with Alhambra Court. On March 1, 2012, Subject Stroble withdrew a plea of not guilty and pled nolo contendere to the charge. Subject Stroble maintained he agreed to a plea deal in this case due to extreme financial hardship. He was sentenced to 36 months summary probation, ordered to perform 40 hours of community service, and required to pay several fines.

On June 13, 2012, Subject Stroble interviewed with investigators from Internal Affairs Bureau and admitted he had originally told Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau investigators he bent over to retrieve a piece of paper. Subject Stroble said he initially presented this version of events because it had been difficult for him to speak with Sergeant Craig, because he knew him on a personal level. Subject Stroble explained he and Sergeant Craig had an uncomfortable relationship. Subject Stroble formed the opinion Sergeant Craig did not like him and he, in turn, neither respected nor trusted Sergeant Craig. Subject Stroble said the thought did not cross his mind of possibly

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getting into more trouble, or losing his job, by not being honest during the ICIB interview. He said he was more concerned about Sergeant Craig and the personal repercussions he may face by divulging the truth.

Subject Stroble said the knowledge of video surveillance and an independent witness did not influence him to recant his first version of events and his initial reluctance to be truthful was based upon his negative relationship with Sergeant Craig.

In an IAB interview with Sergeant Craig, on June 26, 2012, he said during the time Subject Stroble was assigned to he had limited contact with Subject Stroble. He said there were no conflicts or problems between him and Subject Stroble which would cause Subject Stroble to say they had an adverse relationship. Sergeant Craig was further perplexed by Subject Stroble's accusations considering twice after the Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau interview, Subject Stroble called and had lengthy telephone conversations with him regarding the case and conveyed he had nothing but the ultimate respect for Sergeant Craig, who had always treated him well (both conversations were recorded and supported Sergeant Craig's statements).

DISCIPLINE ASSESSMENT

Review of Applicable Guidelines for Discipline Sections

The Department's Guidelines for Discipline lists the following analogous misconduct with the associated disciplinary penalties:

General Behavior	W/R to Discharge
Performance to Standards	W/R to Discharge
Immoral Conduct	W/R to Discharge
Conduct Toward Others	W/R to Discharge

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Failure to Make Statements and/or Making False Statements During Departmental Internal Investigations	15 days to Discharge
False Statements	10 days to Discharge
Professional Conduct	W/R to Discharge
Obstructing an Investigation/ Influencing a Witness	15 Days to Discharge
Cooperation During a Criminal Investigation	15 Days to Discharge
Obedience to Laws, Regulations, and Orders	W/R Discharge

Assessment of Mitigating and Aggravating Factors

Severity of Infraction

Subject Stroble's actions displayed disregard for Department policy and the reputation of the Department. His actions not only brought discredit upon himself, but also disgraced the Sheriff's Department as a whole. His actions were criminal in nature and have subjected the Department to civil liability. On September 16, 2011, the Department responded to Civil Claim Docket The claim #11-1092117*001, initiated by Claimant proposed as a result of Subject Stroble's actions on June 14, 2011, Ms. sustained severe emotional injuries and was seeking legal expenses and punitive damages in an amount not yet disclosed.

Truthfulness and Acceptance of Responsibility

Based upon Subject Stroble's statements, he was elusive and deceptive in
his responses to both the Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau and Internal
Affairs Bureau investigators. During the Internal Affairs Bureau interview on
June 15, 2012, Subject Stroble denied seeing
or on the second floor hallway prior to the incident in the clerk's office, despite
's contradicting statements. Additionally, in contrast to
Witness 's observations of Subject Stroble entering the clerk's office
two times in close proximity, Subject Stroble was adamant he only entered

the office once. Also, Subject Stroble proposed he had been texting his when he first entered the clerk's office, but had no explanation when Sergeant Bracken informed him the forensic examination showed no text messages, either sent or received, on his phone between 1218 hours and 1410 hours. Furthermore, Subject Stroble asserted the paper in his hand was not a note with his phone number intended for Victim but was instead a note to himself to call an applicant; a statement in conflict with sent and Witness served in the verbal exchange between Subject Stroble and

More notably, Subject Stroble refused to take responsibility for the misleading statements he made to Sergeant Craig and Sergeant Moeller during the first Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau interview. Subject Stroble initially contended the events in the clerk's office never occurred, until the investigators confronted him with the possibility of a witness and video surveillance. Instead of holding himself accountable for the intentionally inaccurate statements, Subject Stroble later fabricated a story of how he and Sergeant Craig had a problematic relationship which left him so distrustful he was forced to be untruthful. Based upon the content of the two telephone conversations initiated by Subject Stroble to Sergeant Craig, both occurring after the Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau interviews, Subject Stroble continued to transfer blame for his initial deceptive statements and failed to accept full responsibility for his actions.

Degree of Culpability

The misconduct was committed solely by Subject Stroble.

Past Performance and Disciplinary History:

Subject Stroble has been employed by the Sheriff's Department since January 23, 1995.

Subject Stroble	

Mitigating Factors

There are no facts which mitigate Subject Stroble's unreasonable and criminal actions within the clerk's office and the numerous inaccuracies in his interview statements with both Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau and Internal Affairs Bureau investigators.

DISPOSITION

Based on the foregoing assessment of Subject Stroble's mitigating and aggravating factors, the following is the level of discipline to be assessed, subject to revision upon receiving the Subject's response or grievance:

Discharge		
Reduction in Rank		
Suspension with loss of pay and benefits for _		Days
Written Reprimand		
No discipline recommended		
	Reduction in Rank Suspension with loss of pay and benefits for _ Written Reprimand	Reduction in Rank Suspension with loss of pay and benefits for Written Reprimand

INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

IV2290551

Subject: Steven Stroble, Deputy Sheriff #

Unit: Personnel Administration Bureau, Pre-Employment Unit - Backgrounds

Date: June 14, 2011

Location: 150 West Commonwealth Avenue, Alhambra

Synopsis

This case is in reference to an investigation conducted by Sergeant Scott Craig of Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau. The allegation was that Subject - Deputy Steven Stroble took an unauthorized photograph under a woman's skirt. The alleged incident occurred on June 14, 2011, at approximately 1320 hours at Alhambra Court, inside the second floor clerk's office.

On June 14, 2011, Subject Stroble was working overtime at the Alhambra Court from nours. He conducted a random foot patrol of the second floor of the court at approximately 1315 hours. As he walked into the second floor clerk's office there was an adult female wearing a short skirt at the traffic clerk's window. The female was the only customer in the office at the time. Subject Stroble had paperwork in his left hand and a black cell phone in his right hand. He bent over at his waist, lowering his cell phone beneath the woman's skirt and appeared to take a picture with his cell phone. The incident was witnessed by another employee inside the clerk's office who immediately reported the incident. The incident was also depicted on two of the courthouse's video surveillance cameras.

A preliminary inquiry was conducted by Alhambra Court's Sergeant Tracy Crow and Senior Deputy Rowland Jex; the victim and witness were identified. On June 15, 2011, ICIB personnel were called to Alhambra Court to handle the investigation. Subject Stroble was relieved of duty by Captain Kevin Hebert pending further investigation.

On August 24, 2011, a charge of Disorderly Conduct, Unauthorized Photography Through or Under Ciothing; 647 (J) (2) Penal Code, was filed with Alhambra Court. On August 26, 2011, an arrest warrant for Subject Stroble was issued by Judge Carlos Uranga. On August 31, 2011, Subject Stroble appeared to surrender on the warrant and for a bench warrant hearing. He plead not guilty, and Subject Stroble was released on his own recognizance. On September 1, 2011, the case was transferred to Pasadena Court.

On March 1, 2012, Subject Stroble withdrew his plea of not guilty and pled noto contendere to the charge. Honorable Judge Darrell Mavis sentenced Subject Stroble to 36 months summary probation, ordered him to perform 40 hours of community service and to pay several fines.

IAB Note: Case Supplementals, refer to IAB Exhibit A, ICIB Book, pages 1 thru 21. Also refer to IAB Exhibits B and C for print outs of court dates and Superior Court minutes.

The following is a summary of the investigation conducted by Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau, Sergeant Scott Craig and the subsequent administrative investigation conducted by Sergeant Sonja Bracken:

On June 15, 2011, Sergeants Scott Craig and Raymond Moeller contacted Sergeant Tracy Crow at Alhambra Courthouse. Sergeant Crow verified that Subject Stroble worked on

the afternoon of June 14, 2011. Sergeant Crow said that Witness

reported what she saw to the Clerk's office and left Alhambra Court. One of the clerk's notified Senior Deputy Rowland Jex who subsequently interviewed the personnel in the clerk's office. Senior Jex was able to identify the victim, by the transaction paperwork that was at the Traffic Clerk's window. El Monte Court was the witness in this incident. She was interviewed by Sergeant Ronald Williams at El Monte Court. Sergeant Crow reviewed the video surveillance of the incident
which appeared to corroborate the witnesses allegations. Sergeant Crow gave Sergeant
Craig a copy of the video surveillance, Alhambra Court Daily In-Service, copy of Subject
Stroble's overtime form and a court document entitled "Expanded Traffic Record System,"
used to identify Victim
<u>IAB Note:</u> There is no audio of ICIB investigators preliminary inquiry
with Sergeant Tracy Crow.
IAB Note: In IAB Exhibit A, ICIB Book, page 17, the two clerks
interviewed by Senior Deputy Jex are listed as and and
. In a sentence following those names, there was
mention of a Ms. I confirmed that this was a typo by ICIB
Sergeant Craig, the correct name is Ms. Refer to Dictaphone
iobs #34518, #35157 and Exhibit D for these interviews.

Sergeant Crow took Sergeant Craig and Sergeant Moeller to the second floor clerk's office and pointed out the location of the surveillance cameras which captured the actions of Subject Stroble. They then reviewed the video footage in Sergeant Crow's office.

IAB Note: Refer to IAB Exhibit A, ICIB Book, pages 5 & 6, for specific times that depict Subject Stroble's actions on video surveillance cameras 15 traffic and 17 traffic.

IAB Note: During the review of the video surveillance, Sergeant Scott recognized and identified Subject Stroble from being professionally acquainted with him from March of 2009 thru December of 2010.

Sergeants Craig and Moeller then met with Subject Stroble and Captain Hebert in the Captain's office. Sergeant Craig informed Subject Stroble about the allegations made against him. Subject Stroble initially said he had no idea what the incident was about and denied being in the Alhambra clerk's office on June 14, 2011. Sergeant Craig immediately seized Subject Stroble's Sheriff's Department issued cell phone and his personal cell phone.

On June 15, 2011, at 1355 hours, Sergeants Craig and Moeller interviewed Subject Stroble. The following is a summary of that interview:

Sergeant Scott explained the differences between Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau and Internal Affairs Bureau. He also made Subject Stroble aware that he was free to leave the interview at any time. Subject Stroble agreed to participate in the interview. Subject Stroble said he went into the clerk's office on June 14, 2011 at approximately 1320 hours. He made small talk with the clerks and saw a piece of paper on the floor, next to an unknown female (later identified as Victim Subject Stroble said he was not going to pick up the paper but then decided to pick it up. Subject Stroble said he picked up the piece of paper and asked Victim Stroble if it belonged to her. Victim Said the piece of paper was not hers and that maybe it belonged to another person. Subject Stroble said during this contact with Victim Stroble said during this contact with Victim Stroble he had his personal cell phone in his hand because he was text messaging his

Subject Stroble said if an examination of his personal cell phone was conducted, there would not be any photographs of Victim on it. Sergeant Craig informed Subject Stroble about the video surveillance footage which did not show him picking up any paper from the floor. Sergeant Craig also told Subject Stroble about the witness (identified as Witness who saw his actions in the clerk's office. Sergeant Craig gave Subject Stroble a chance to change his statement. Subject Stroble maintained that he had done nothing wrong and only picked up a piece of paper. Subject Stroble described the piece of paper that he allegedly picked up as a quarter sized sheet of a standard sheet of paper. Subject Stroble added that the video surveillance would show him picking up that piece of paper and opening it.

Sergeant Moeller reiterated to Subject Stroble how clear the video surveillance depicted him placing his cell phone underneath Victim skirt. Sergeant Craig told Subject Stroble that if he took a picture with his cell phone and deleted it, the picture could still be retrieved. Subject Stroble again denied that he placed his cell phone under Victim skirt or took a picture of her.

This interview was concluded.

Moments later, as Sergeants Craig and Moeller were meeting with Captain Hebert, Subject Stroble approached them. Subject Stroble expressed that he would like to clarify his earlier statements.

At approximately 1435 hours, Sergeants Craig and Moeller re-interviewed Subject Stroble. Subject Stroble admitted that often received text messages and pictures from friends. He admitted that he went into the clerk's office on June 14, 2011, and after seeing Victim, he intended on taking a picture of her leg, above her knee, at the skirt area. He intended on sending that picture to a friend, he then admitted his friend was in fact, his adult the series. Subject Stroble said as he got closer to Victim the caught himself, did not take a picture of her, and that "maturity kicked in." Subject Stroble described his actions as "stupid, immature, temporary poor thought process and human nature."

Subject Stroble said he was aware that someone in the clerk's office may have been watching him. He also said he was aware of the video surveillance cameras in the clerk's office. Subject Stroble feared that taking a picture of a person in the way he intended to was a crime because of his thought process at the time. He believed that this incident would have been a crime if he would have attempted to take the picture up Victim

Subject Stroble said he had not seen Victim prior to seeing her in the clerk's office that afternoon of June 14, 2011. Subject Stroble admitted he used the papers in his hand as a decoy and that he never picked up any paper from the floor of the clerk's office that afternoon. Subject Stroble said what he had done was stupid and he was happy that he stopped himself before actually taking the picture.

This interview was concluded.

Immediately after this interview, Sergeant Craig seized the Sheriff's Department desktop computer from Subject Stroble's desk. Subject Stroble's work email and internet access account were suspended at Sergeant Craig's request.

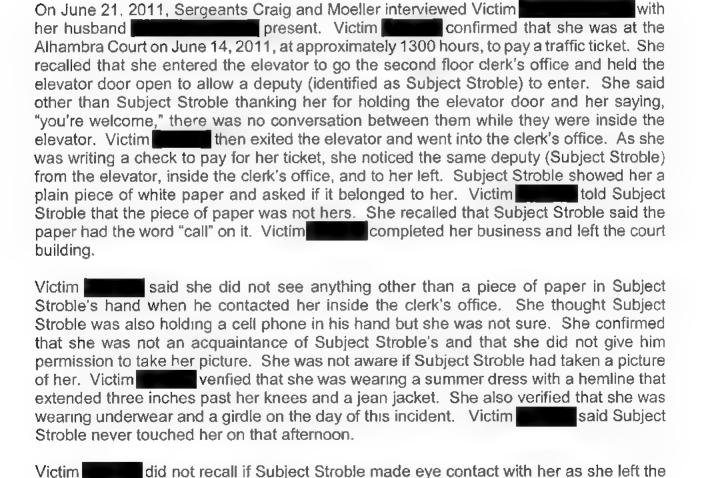
Sergeant Craig contacted Victim via telephone and confirmed that she was at the Alhambra Court in the clerks office on June 14, 2011. Victim confirmed that a deputy had asked about a piece a paper that he allegedly picked up off of the floor. Victim said she did not know that deputy and did not give him permission to take a picture of her. Victim said she would cooperate with Sergeant Craig's investigation and agreed to meet for an interview.

<u>IAB Note:</u> On June 16, 2011, Sergeant Craig obtained a search warrant for the search and forensic examination of Subject Stroble's personal and work cell phones that were seized. Refer to IAB Exhibit A, ICIB Book, pages, 30 thru 33.

On June 16, 2011, Subject Stroble telephoned Sergeant Craig inquiring if he could get another personal cell phone using the same number and asking if his Department email/internet access was shut down. Sergeant Craig advised him that he could get another cell phone and verified that his Department computer access was suspended.

IAB Note: Subject Stroble telephoned Sergeant Craig again on June 22, 2011, advising him that he had joined a sexual addiction support group. On both telephone calls to Sergeant Craig, Subject Stroble inquired as to the status of the criminal case and asking Sergeant Craig his opinion on the results of the case.

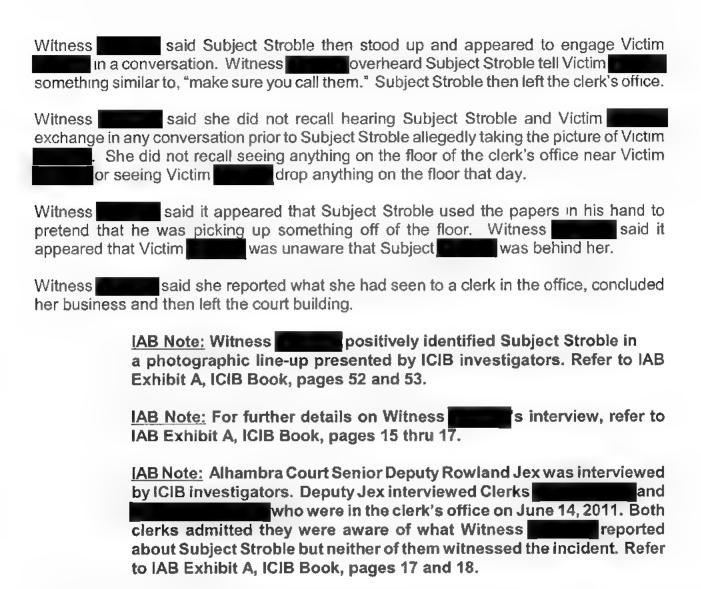
<u>IAB Note:</u> For further details of Subject Stroble's interviews and telephone calls with ICIB investigators, refer to IAB Exhibit A, ICIB Book, pages 6 thru 11 and also page 14.



did not know if he followed her out of the court building.

court building. She did not recall seeing any gestures made by Subject Stroble and she

in a photographic line-up presented by ICIB investigators. Refer to IAB Exhibit A, ICIB Book, pages 36 and 37.
ICIB investigators showed Victim still pictures depicting the inside of clerk's office on June 14, 2011. Victim confirmed that she was the woman in both pictures A and B; on picture B, she confirmed that it was the same deputy who she described as being in the elevator with her moments earlier. Refer to IAB Exhibit A, ICIB Book, pages 38 and 39.
Victim confirmed that she was desirous of prosecution and the interview with ICIB investigators was concluded.
IAB Note: For further details on Victim street street in IAB Exhibit A, ICIB Book, pages 11 thru 13.
IAB Note: On June 22, 2011, Sergeant Craig obtained a search warrant for the search of Subject Stroble's work area and desk, including the desktop computer, at Personnel Administration Bureau. The search warrant also included Subject Stroble's residence, personal cell phone and personal email. Refer to IAB Exhibit A, ICIB Book, pages, 40 thru 47.
On June 24, 2011, ICIB investigators executed the search warrant at Subject Stroble's residence. Several items were seized, refer to the seized property receipts authored by ICIB Sergeant Craig, IAB Exhibit A, ICIB Book, pages 49 thru 51.
On June 28, 2011, ICIB Sergeants Scott Craig and John Kniest interviewed Witness. Witness confirmed that she was at the Alhambra Court, in the second floor clerk's office on June 14, 2011. She said as she waited in line at the criminal window, she saw a deputy (identified as Subject Stroble) that she recognized from working at Court years ago. She said she was approximately twenty-five to thirty feet away from the traffic window and had an unobstructed view of the area. She saw Subject Stroble walk into the clerk's office, up to the traffic windows, and then walk out of the clerk's office. Approximately two minutes later, she saw a female (identified as Victim wearing a knee length skirt walk up to the traffic window. She then saw Subject Stroble re-enter the clerk's office and walk up behind Victim at the traffic window.
Witness said she saw Subject Stroble holding papers in his left hand and a what appeared to be a cell phone in his right hand. Witness said she saw Subject Stroble bend down near Victim see see. Witness said she saw what appeared to be a telephone's screen facing up and it being illuminated. She did not hear a click or see a flash from what appeared to be a cell phone in Subject Stroble's hand. Witness believed Subject Stroble acted like he was picking up papers off the floor as he very deliberately put his cell phone under Victim skirt.



Sergeant Craig authored an additional supplemental report documenting the findings of the search warrants and forensic examinations. The search of Subject Stroble's personal Yahoo account, his Samsung - Verizon (personal) cell phone, his LG work cell phone, CD's, flash drives, memory cards, his personal and work computers resulted in no additional evidence in the case against Subject Stroble. After a review of the records provided by Verizon Wireless (Subject Stroble's personal cell phone), there were no text messages sent or received on June 14, 2011, between 1218 and 1440 hours.

IAB Note: Subject Stroble told ICIB investigators that he had his cell phone out because he was text messaging his as he entered the clerk's office at approximately 1320 hours.

IAB Note: For further details, refer to IAB Exhibit A, ICIB Book, pages 19 thru 21. Also refer to IAB Exhibit A, ICIB Book, pages 54 thru 123 for Yahoo declaration and records, Verizon Wireless text messages and call history and Supplemental report from High Tech Task Force Detective Perry Ahn.

SUBJECT INTERVIEW

Subject- Deputy Steven Stroble # Personnel Administration, was interviewed by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeant Sonja Bracken and Sergeant Jose Garcia on June 13, 2012, at 1012 hours. Subject Stroble was represented by Attorney Alfonzo Estrada from Green & Shinee. The interview took place at Internal Affairs Bureau and was digitally recorded. The following is a summary.

IAB Note: On the advice of his counsel, Subject Stroble acknowledged that he read the "Administrative Rights for Subjects" form but refused to sign it. Subject Stroble verbally acknowledged the questions and understood the instructions of the form.

Subject Stroble said he has been working for the Department for eighteen years. At the time of this incident on June 13, 2011, he had been assigned to Pre-Employment Backgrounds for approximately five years. He said that he was working overtime at the Alhambra Court from hours to hours on the date of this incident. He had worked the Alhambra Court and several other court assignments during the course of his career. Subject Stroble said he had been assigned as a bailiff in different types of misdemeanor and felony cases but could not recall if he had ever worked as a bailiff for any sexual related cases. He denied working as a bailiff during any types of cases where suspects were charged for taking pictures or videos of victims. Subject Stroble said he was aware of the video surveillance system at the Alhambra Courthouse. He said he had an occasion to see the court's surveillance system and review an incident, so he was aware how clear the video footage was.

IAB Note: At this point in the interview, Sergeant Bracken advised Subject Stroble that IAB investigators had a copy of the Alhambra Courthouse video surveillance in this incident and that it was available for his review at the conclusion of this interview. Refer to IAB Exhibit D.

Subject Stroble acknowledged that he had seen the video surveillance footage in this incident prior to this interview, during the court process of the criminal case.

During the ICIB interview on June 15, 2011, Subject Stroble acknowledge that he told ICIB investigators he was picking up a piece of paper that was allegedly near Victim in the clerk's office on June 14, 2011. Subject Stroble said it was difficult for him to talk to ICIB Sergeant Scott Craig because he knew him on a personal level.

Subject Stroble also said that Sergeant Craig was one of his supervisors for approximately one year (2009 to 2010) when he (Subject Stroble) was assigned to assigned to a Subject Stroble said he and Sergeant Craig had a good relationship at the beginning of their working relationship but towards the end, they did not agree on certain things. Subject Stroble said he did not respect Sergeant Craig and did not feel he could trust him.

Subject Stroble acknowledged that the ICIB investigators, Sergeant Scott Craig and Sergeant Raymond Moeller told him that there was video surveillance and an independent witness to his actions on June 14, 2011. He said he did not give much thought to if the ICIB investigators were trying to trick him or lie to him during the first interview with them. Subject Stroble said he just was not sure about talking to them because of the past negative relationship with Sergeant Craig. Subject Stroble went on to explain that allegedly due to his friendship with Norwalk Station Lieutenant, he and Sergeant Craig had an uncomfortable relationship. His perception was that Sergeant Craig did not like him. Subject Stroble said that the thought of possibly getting into more trouble or losing his job by not being truthful during his ICIB interview did not cross his mind. He said he was more concerned about Sergeant Craig and personal repercussions.

Subject Stroble said he is aware that ICIB investigations are confidential but it was his personal opinion that Sergeant Craig would violate and jeopardize his (Sergeant Craig's) job by disclosing confidential information on a personal level. Subject Stroble said that he and Sergeant Craig have a mutual friend who works for the Department whom he (Subject Stroble) used to speak to frequently. Allegedly, that mutual friend has not spoken to him since the interview with Sergeant Craig.

IAB Note: Subject Stroble preferred not to disclose the mutual friend's name in this case. IAB investigators did not order Subject Stroble to disclose the person's name based on irrelevance and on the totality of the facts of this case; the video, the eyewitness, Subject Stroble's statements, and his plea deal.

<u>IAB Note:</u> Even with alleged negative relationship with Sergeant Craig, Subject Stroble telephoned Sergeant Craig on two occasions after the Interviews on June 15, 2012. Refer to Subject Stroble's transcriptions.

Subject Stroble said he was initially surprised when ICIB investigators wanted to seize his cell phone that is why he told them, "No." He thought the investigators only wanted to look through his cell phone. After ICIB investigators advised him of their intent to obtain a search warrant for his cell phone either way, Subject Stroble consented to his cell phone being seized. He denied that there were any inappropriate pictures of other women on the cell phone.

Subject Stroble said after the first interview with ICIB investigators on June 15, 2011, Sergeant Craig asked him if there was anything he wanted to added to his statement. He acknowledged that Sergeant Craig gave him several opportunities to go back on the record and be re-interviewed. Subject Stroble said that is why he chose to be re-interviewed by ICIB investigators on that same day (June 15, 2011). Subject Stroble denied seeing Victim prior to the incident in the second floor clerk's office. He denied seeing her in the elevator or in the second floor hallway prior to going inside the clerk's office.

IAB Note: During ICIB investigators interview with Victim she alleged that she held the elevator door for Subject Stroble allowing him to enter as she rode it to the second floor of the courthouse. Victim said the only conversation they had while in the elevator was Subject Stroble thanking her for holding the elevator door for him.

Subject Stroble said when he has worked the Alhambra Courthouse on prior occasions his normal routine was to conducted random security checks throughout the building. He could not recall if he conducted checks on all four floors of the courthouse on June 14, 2011. He said when he first walked into the second floor clerk's office he did not see Victim . He said there were several people at the traffic clerk's counter (the video footage only showed Victim at the counter). He said within five to ten seconds of being in the clerk's office he formed the plan to take Victim seems s picture. He said he did not choose Victim because she was alone or because she was distracted at the traffic counter; he said there was no plan as to why he chose Victim denied that he cased the clerk's office prior to forming his plan to photograph Victim Subject Stroble said he intended on taking the picture of Victim to send to his He said he thought it would be funny and his would laugh. He intended on taking a picture of her leg around her knee area. Subject Stroble said as he leaned down to take the picture, he said to himself, "oh wait, what am I doing? This would look bad;" based on this Subject Stroble said he did not take the picture. Subject Stroble said he thought to himself that his action was very immature and was not funny, this is what made him not take the picture of Victim Subject Stroble said his seem often sent him pictures of women's body parts but he denied that he ever reciprocated by sending or taking those types of pictures. He said often times he would look at a picture sent by his delete the picture, and if it was funny, he would text his "ha, ha." Subject Stroble agreed that it is wrong to take a picture of someone without their permission. He said he was not aware that it was a crime to attempt to take someone's picture; he said if he would have taken Victim picture it would have been a crime.

Subject Stroble said he was not attempting to take a picture of Victim substractions buttocks, or her crotch area. He said that thought never crossed his mind.

ICIB investigators taking possession of it on June 15, 2011.

During the second interview with ICIB, Subject Stroble admitted that he never picked up anything off of the floor in the clerk's office that day. Subject Stroble also said, "he feared what he was about to do was a crime because of his thought process." His explained that statement to IAB investigators by saying if he actually had taken the picture, it would have been a crime. He said his actions on June 14, 2011, was more immaturity than it was criminal.

During one of the subsequent telephone calls on June 22, 2011, with ICIB Sergeant Craig, Subject Stroble said he had joined a sexual addiction support group. When IAB investigators asked him about that statement, Subject Stroble said he went to a support group in West Los Angeles which only had two other men in attendance. Subject Stroble said he went to this meeting soon after the incident on June 14, 2011 and that no one advised him to go.

Subject Stroble said he went to the meeting as a way to tell his story and help other people as sort of a mentor. Subject Stroble said that support meeting was a waste of time, the two men in attendance seemed to be in denial and were blaming society for there actions. Subject Stroble said the men did not seem to want to take responsibility for their own actions. Subject Stroble denied that he had any type of problem as his reason for going to that support group. Subject Stroble said he did not go to the support meeting to benefit himself. He went to that meeting to hopefully benefit another person.

During the second interview with ICIB investigators, Subject Stroble said he was text messaging his as he entered the clerk's office on June 14, 2011. IAB Sergeant Bracken told Subject Stroble that no text messages were discovered during the forensic examination of his Samsung cell phone between 1218 hours and 1410 hours. Subject Stroble was inside the clerk's office between 1300 and 1330 hours. Subject Stroble could not explain the reason for that and still claimed that he was text messaging his

During the second telephone call with ICIB Sergeant Craig on June 22, 2011, Subject Stroble inquired about contacting Victim to apologize. Sergeant Craig told him that he should not contact her. During the interview with IAB investigators, Subject Stroble said he was not aware that this action would have been against Department policy. He also said if he would have contacted her he would have apologized for everything and that acknowledged that Victim possibly would have a "bad taste" in her mouth about law enforcement in general. Subject Stroble said he also would have explained to her that, "he was trying to take a picture of her leg, he thought it would be funny, it was not funny and that it was pretty immature."

During the IAB interview, Subject Stroble denied that he had his telephone number written on that piece of paper in his hand in order to give it to Victim. He also denied that he had ever seen any incidents on the television news where people have either been videotaped or photographed in their homes or in restaurant restrooms. Subject Stroble then said he had seen similar news stories but not recently.

Subject Stroble said he understood the criminal charge that he was charged with in this case. He was sentenced to three years probation, and forty hours of community service. He said he has completed the required forty hours of community service. Subject Stroble said he agreed to a plea deal in this case due to extreme financial hardship. He said he did not qualify for a public defender and he could not afford a private attorney.

Subject Stroble said he had worked the Alhambra Courthouse approximately thirty to forty times prior to this incident. He had worked at the metal detectors, as a bailiff and as back up security throughout the facility. He said there were no signs posted at that courthouse about photography being prohibited.

IAB Sergeant Bracken showed him a picture of a signs (IAB Exhibit F), which advised that no cell phones or photography were allowed in the courthouse. Subject Stroble said those signs were not posted in the courthouse at the time of this incident. As far as he knew, it was okay to have his cell phone and/or take pictures at that courthouse.

IAB Note: Sergeant Bracken spoke to Alhambra Court Sergeant Tracy Crow via telephone on 06/26/12. Sergeant Crow has been assigned to Alhambra Court for six years and the signs regarding "No photography" have been posted throughout the court building since he has been assigned there. This conversation was not digitally recorded as it was for information only.

At this point in the interview, Sergeant Bracken told Subject Stroble that his intent to take a picture of Victim s leg did not seem believable and gave him an opportunity to change his answer. Subject Stroble did not change his answer. Subject Stroble did not believe that it was appropriate for Sergeant Craig to conduct the criminal investigation. He believed that it was a conflict of interest based on their history. He believed that the criminal charge against him was "just incredible."

Subject Stroble said prior to his actions on June 14, 2011, he considered the affects on his family if he actually had taken the picture of Victima . He did not think of the criminal aspect of his actions. Subject Stroble said he was familiar with the Department's Core Values. He said he thought of them before contemplating taking a picture of Victim that is why he did not take the picture. He said he considered the Core Values in their entirety. Subject Stroble also said he considered how his actions might effect the reputation of the other personnel at the Alhambra Court, which is also why he did not take the picture. He believed that if he would have completed taking the picture of Victim he would have brought discredit to himself and the Department.

Subject Stroble said he was not sure how Sergeant Craig informed Victim about the incident in the clerk's office on June 14, 2011. He believed that if Sergeant Craig would have told her that a deputy tried to take a picture of your leg, it would have sounded different to Victim. He believed that Sergeant Craig may have told Victim that a deputy was taking a picture of her crotch area, which made things seem worse than they actually were.

Subject Stroble said if he could change what he had done, he would have "maintained maturity and not give into immaturity." He classified this incident as a very, very brief lapse in maturity.

Subject Stroble did not have anything else to say on his behalf. At the conclusion of this interview, Subject Stroble was given the opportunity to review the video surveillance in the incident and clarify any points. He declined to see the video.

<u>IAB Note:</u> For further details on the ICIB interviews, refer to IAB Exhibit A, ICIB Book, pages 7 through 11 and also page 14. Also refer to Subject Stroble's transcribed ICIB and IAB interviews.

Sworn Witness

Witness-Sergeant Scott Craig # Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau, was interviewed by Sergeant Sonja Bracken and Sergeant Jose Garcia on June 26, 2012, at 0939 hours. This interview was a rebuttal interview based on statements/allegations made by Subject Stroble during his IAB interview. This interview took place at Internal Affairs Bureau and was digitally recorded. The following is a summary:
Witness Craig said he was not Subject Stroble's supervisor during the time Subject Stroble was on was Subject Stroble's supervisor. Witness Craig said during the time Subject Stroble was assigned to he had limited contact with Subject Stroble. Witness Craig said there were no conflicts or problems between himself and Subject Stroble which would cause Subject Stroble to say they had a negative relationship.
Witness Craig recalled that all the ICIB investigators submitted names of people to be selected for the some were not. Witness Craig did not recall who specifically selected Subject Stroble for that task force. Witness Craig denied making the statement, "Al the Snitch" in reference to Lieutenant to Subject Stroble. Witness Craig said he has no idea why Subject Stroble had the opinion that he (Witness Craig) did not like him. Witness Craig mentioned the fact that Subject Stroble called him twice after the ICIB interviews regarding this incident at Alhambra Court. During those telephone conversations Subject Stroble told Witness Craig that he had nothing but the ultimate respect for him and that Witness Craig always treated him well.
Witness Craig believed that during his IAB interview Subject Stroble may have been referring to Sergeant as the mutual friend. He was not sure if Sergeant was actually friends with Subject Stroble. Witness Craig said that Sergeant was assigned to during the same time frame that Subject Stroble was assigned there. Witness Craig was aware that at one point Subject Stroble and Sergeant worked in the backgrounds unit together.

Witness Craig said his ICIB investigations are only discussed within his unit. He said he would not discuss anyone's personal business with anyone outside of ICIB. Witness Craig did not recall specifically telling Subject Stroble, "you're making a mountain out of a mole hill" or "you're making a big deal about this."

Witness Craig said after the first interview with Subject Stroble he (Witness Craig) discussed with his partner Sergeant Ray Moeller that Subject Stroble was not being truthful. Subject Stroble then re-approached them wanting to clarify his initial statements. Witness Craig said he advised Subject Stroble of the allegations against him prior to and during their interview. Witness Craig said he did not quote a specific penal code section to Subject Stroble. Witness Craig could not recall if he told Subject Stroble that the charge against him would be a felony or misdemeanor. Witness Craig said he may have downplayed the severity of the situation in order to get Subject Stroble to admit what he did.

Witness Craig said he conducted an unbiased investigation in this incident. He said there are times where he would recuse himself from an investigation but this incident did not fit the criteria. Witness Craig said he was professionally acquainted with Subject Stroble and that was the extent of it.

Witness Craig said years ago, as a detective, he used 647 (J)(2) Penal Code, in previous cases, but back then the penal code section was 653(k)(k) Penal Code (Sergeant Bracken was unable to locate this penal code section). He said he had seen other cases where 647 (J)(2) Penal Code was filed and the suspects were later sentenced. Witness Craig said the day that he was interviewing witnesses in this incident, there was a trial going on at El Monte court for 647 (J)(2) Penal Code. He was not aware of the outcome in that case.

Witness Craig recalled advising Victim that a deputy either attempted to or did take a picture up her skirt. He did not think he used the words, "crotch or buttocks" when telling Victim what had occurred.

Witness Craig said there were no cameras in the elevators at Alhambra Court. Witness Craig could not recall if he saw signs reading "No photography" (IAB Exhibit F) at Alhambra Court but he was familiar with those types of signs at other courts.

<u>IAB Note:</u> For further details on this interview, refer to Witness Craig's transcribed IAB interview.